

REMARKS

The present application was filed on October 31, 2000 with claims 1-27. Claims 1, 10 and 19 are the independent claims.

In the non-final Office Action, the Examiner: (i) rejects claims 1-8, 10-17 and 19-26 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by S. Chakrabarti et al., "Focused Crawling: A New Approach to Topic-Specific Web Resource Discovery," Computer Networks, 25 pages, 1999 (hereinafter "Chakrabarti"); and (ii) rejects claims 9, 18 and 27 as being unpatentable over Chakrabarti in view of S. Chakrabarti et al., "Distributed Hypertext Resource Discovery Through Examples," Proceedings of the 25th VLDB Conference, Edinburgh, Scotland, pp. 375-386, 1999 (hereinafter "Ch2").

Claims 1, 10 and 19 have been amended to clarify that at least a set of aggregate statistical information and a set of predicate-specific statistical information are collected about the one or more retrieved documents as the one or more retrieved documents are analyzed. Support for this amendment may be found in the specification at, for example, page 8, lines 10-22; page 9, lines 22, to page 10, line 2; and page 10, lines 15-25.

With regard to the §102(b) rejection, Applicants initially note that MPEP §2131 specifies that a given claim is anticipated "only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference," citing Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Moreover, MPEP §2131 indicates that the cited reference must show the "identical invention . . . in as complete detail as is contained in the . . . claim," citing Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co., 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

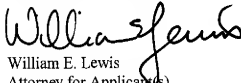
Regarding the §102(b) rejection of claim 1, each and every one of the above-noted limitations of amended claim 1 fails to be anticipated by the teachings of Chakrabarti. For example, Chakrabarti fails to disclose the limitations of amended claim 1 wherein at least a set of aggregate statistical information and a set of predicate-specific statistical information are collected about the one or more retrieved documents as the one or more retrieved documents are analyzed.

Independent claims 10 and 19 contain limitations similar to those of claim 1 and are believed patentable for at least the reasons identified above with reference to claim 1.

Dependent claims 2-8, 11-18 and 20-27 are believed patentable for at least the reasons set forth above with reference to the independent claim from which each depends. Furthermore, one or more of these claims defines independently patentable subject matter.

In view of the above, Applicants believe that claims 1-27 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request withdrawal of the §102(b) and §103(a) rejections.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William E. Lewis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "William" being the most prominent part.

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